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Biloxi baker's kindness recalled

Ernest's Bakery, owned by Ernest Balius, supplied baked goods to homes, grocery stores and shrimp and oyster boats. The first delivery started at 1:30 a.m. The bread was deposited through trap doors in the grocery stores, and at noon, a second delivery replaced the left over bread with fresh.

To say that Ernest's Bakery, located at 501 Maple Street in Biloxi, was a family owned and operated business would be an understatement. Balius' wife, Opal, and their seven children all had a hand in the bakery. But his children came first. Often he told them, "Eat all you want, and then I will make a profit."

Balius dressed his five sons in little white pants, shirts, aprons and caps and with the youngest boy standing on a box, taught them how to make bread. The products they made at that time were never sold to the public, it was only a learning experience. Balius wanted his sons to always have an occupation on which to fall back.

Three kinds of bread were delivered to the boats: hardtack, which the boatmen soaked in their coffee, and French and Italian breads with thick, hard crusts and soft centers. The bread, which was put up in cloth sacks and stored on the boats in barrels, stayed fresh up to a month.

Today, Balius is remembered not only for his beautifully decorated wedding cakes and fabulous doughnuts, but for his kindness and compassion as well. His eldest daughter, Francis Cody, remembers that he had a list of the widows who lived along his delivery routes. He instructed his drivers to leave fresh bread on their doorstep every day and a pie or cake on the weekend.

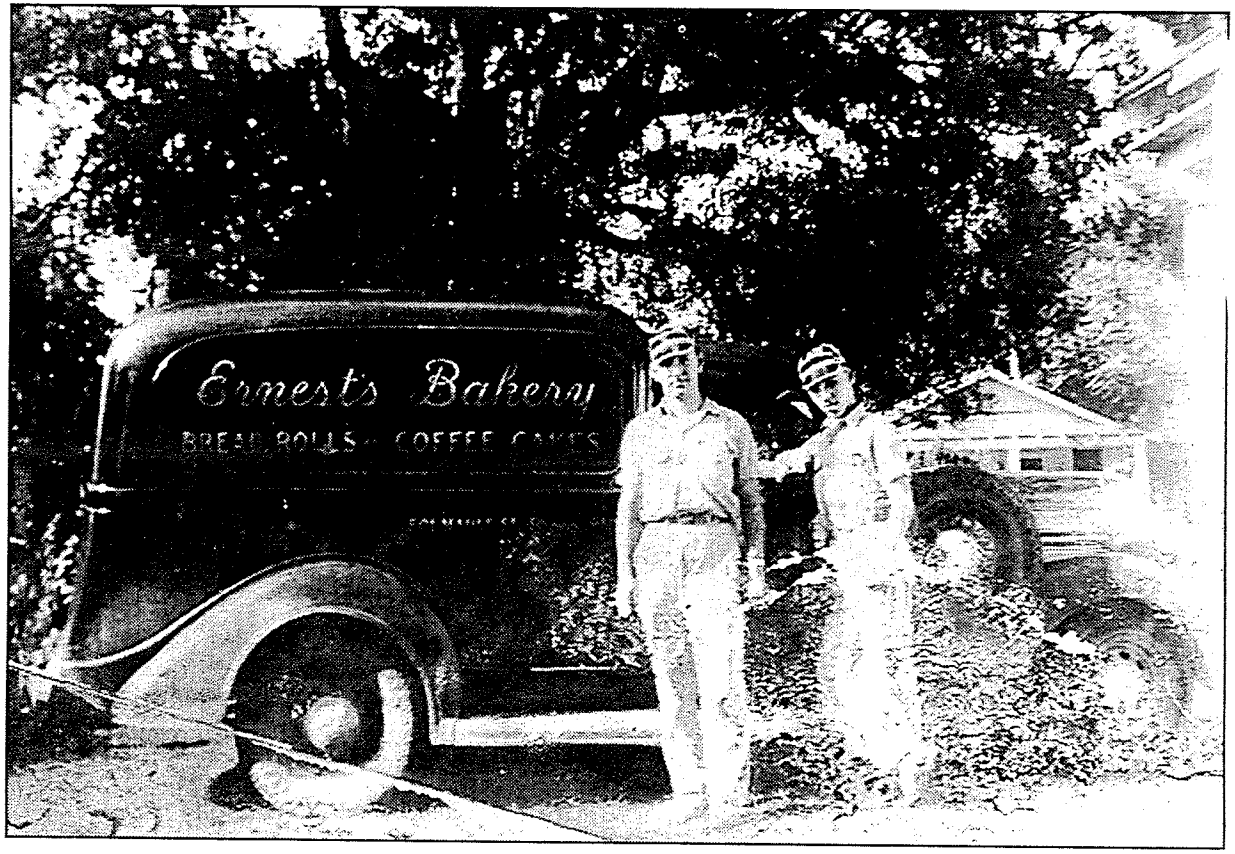

PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN RENAUD

Ernest Balius was well known for his kindness as well as his baking. In this early 1930s snapshot, Ernest, right, stands by one of his delivery trucks.

Do you have a local photograph to submit to Coast Flashback? It can be of any subject or event in the Coast's distant or recent past. Please send a description with your name, address and daytime phone to Murella H. Powell, Biloxi Public Library, 139 Lameuse, Biloxi MS 39530; or call her at 374-0330. Photos will be returned.

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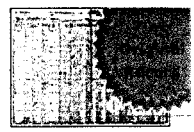
Make a Connection

Find others who are researching your ancestors in Public Member Trees:
Find others researching Joseph Balius

Name:	**Joseph Balius**
Gender:	Male
Birth Year:	abt 1872
Birthplace:	Mississippi
Race:	White
Home in 1930:	Biloxi, Harrison, Mississippi View Map
Marital Status:	Single
Relation to Head of House:	Boarder
Father's Birthplace:	France
Mother's Birthplace:	Mississippi
Occupation:	
Education:	
Military service:	View image
Rent/home value:	
Age at first marriage:	
Parents' birthplace:	
Neighbors:	View others on page



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Household Members:

Name	Age
Leamer Benson	39
Frank B Benson	16
Julia A Benson	13
Vida C Benson	11
Frances B Benson	8
Lawrence R Benson	3 [3 2/12]
Joseph Balius	58 *

Suggested Records

These records may also be relevant to **Joseph Balius:**

Joseph C Bailus
1900 United States Federal Census

Joseph Edward Balius
WWI Civilian Draft Registrations

Joseph Balius
1910 United States Federal Census

Joseph Edward Balius
U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918

Rudolph Baylius
1920 United States Federal Census

Save This Record
Attach this record to a person in your tree as a source record, or save for later evaluation.

Source Citation: Year: *1930*; Census Place: *Biloxi, Harrison, Mississippi*; Roll: *1146*; Page: *2A*; Enumeration District: *4*; Image: *407.0*; FHL microfilm: *2340881*.

Source Information:
Ancestry.com. *1930 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2002.
Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1930. T626, 2,667 rolls.

Description:
The 1930 Census contains records for approximately 123 million Americans. The census gives us a glimpse into the lives of Americans in 1930, and contains information about a household's family members and occupants including: birthplaces, occupations, immigration, citizenship, and military service. The names of those listed in the census are linked to actual images of the 1930 Census. Learn more...

JOSEPH BALIUS,
* STEP FATHER TO
BENSON KIDS —
DROWNED WITH
JOEL P. SMITH. JR.
WHEN BOAT
(LIVEOAK) SANK IN
MOBILE BAY
— FRANK BENSON
SWAM 21 MILES TO
SHORE IN A
HURRICANE.

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